

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

March 3, 2015

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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General Updates

Congress introduces Farm to School Act of 2015

The Farm to School Act of 2015 has been [officially introduced](#) in Congress! This bipartisan effort is being led by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Marcia Fudge (D-OH).

The Farm to School Act of 2015 builds on the success of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 by proposing **an increase in funding from \$5 million to \$15 million** for the [USDA Farm to School Grant Program](#). The bill would also ensure that the grant program fully includes preschools, summer food service sites, after school programs, and tribal schools and producers while improving program participation from beginning, veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Join us at noon on Friday, October 24, 2014



Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch Garden Contest – It's Time to Vote!!!

Do you remember the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch on October 24, 2014? Well, it's time to vote for the finalists in the garden contest sponsored by McKay Nursery. Finalists will be posted to [McKay's Facebook page](#) on March 3rd. Make sure to spread the word and have friends and family go to the McKay Nursery Company Facebook page to vote for

your favorite project!

Voting will take place March 3-5 on McKay's Facebook page. The finalists with the most votes will win and be posted Friday, March 6th.

Webinars, Conferences and Events



[Building a Youth Beekeeping Program](#), a free webinar presented by Community Groundworks with edWeb's Growing School Gardens community!

Webinar date: March 4, 3:00pm Central Time

[Getting Your Wellness Policy Ahead of the Curve](#) - Wednesday March 11th, 2015 at 3pm EST

Good Food Festival

A great line up of Farm to School sessions and speakers has been planned. Now help us get the word out and help spread the word with the attached Farm to School Flyer. Find more details at our new website, www.goodfoodfestivals.com.

Date: Friday, March 20, 2015 Chicago, Illinois

Grant-writing workshops

The UW-Extension Community Food Systems Team is partnering with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and will be leading [three Grant Writing Workshops](#) for the [Farmers Market Promotion Program \(FMPP\)](#) and the [Local Foods Promotion Program \(LFPP\)](#) at three locations around the state –



March 6: Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI 53718

April 10: Eau Claire County UW-Extension, 227 1st Street West, Altoona, WI 54720

April 23: Brown County UW-Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI 54302

Each workshop will run from 10am – 3pm and all workshops are free (including free lunch) but you must register. [Register here](#)

Farm to School Job Openings

[Community GroundWorks](#) is looking to hire two part-time positions for the 2015 season: a **Land Steward LTE** and **Crew Leader for the Goodman Youth Farm**.

The deadline to apply is March 5, 2015.

The Land Steward should be a hardworking and flexible assistant who will care for the land at Troy Gardens. This person will help oversee our food forest and edible landscape, woodlands, open spaces, and natural areas (prairie, old field, wildlife corridor).

The Crew Leader will be responsible for assisting the Youth Farm Manager in all aspects of farm and program management, including but not limited to: leading field crews of students, interns, and volunteers, developing educational programming, preparing program supplies, maintaining farm records, and facilitating large group activities.

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

USDA Announces \$9 Million to Support Community Food Projects Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the availability of \$9 million in funding to assist low-income individuals and communities in developing local and independent food systems. NIFA is funding the grants through the Community Food Projects program (CFP), authorized by the

Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). Grants are intended to help eligible, private, nonprofit entities in need of a one-time installment of federal assistance to establish and carry out multipurpose community food projects. Projects are funded from \$10,000 to \$300,000 and up to 36 months. All grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources. More information can be found [here](#).

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION - AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

2015 MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation is offering matching grants of up to \$500 to groups sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. Grants will be awarded for amounts up to \$500 to applicants that secure or provide equal matching funds for the proposed project. Grants may be awarded for less than the full amount requested, based upon discretion of the judges and the funds available.

USDA Announces More Than \$160 Million Available in Funding for Food and Agriculture Research, Education, and Extension

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced the availability of more than \$160 million in funding for research, education, and extension projects that address key challenges affecting U.S. agriculture production. NIFA will fund the awards through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The purpose of AFRI is to support research, education, and extension work by awarding grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture. Application deadlines vary by program area. More information can be found on the USDA [website](#).



Growing Wisconsin Agriculture video

This free video give an easy-to-understand overview of agriculture in Wisconsin. It is available in five languages at datcp.wi.gov/business/exports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.